

Voice of U. S. Ruled Allied War Council, Says Lloyd George

"Power and Logic" of American Plan "Irresistible," He Declares

Asks Commons for Vote of Confidence

Explains Robertson Dismissal; "Terrible Realities" at Hand

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Premier Lloyd George answered criticism of the plan for a Supreme War Council and of the recent changes in the British army leadership in the House of Commons today by the declaration that the Versailles decision was due to the representations of other governments, notably that of the United States.

The argument presented for America in favor of unity of war control, Mr. Lloyd George said, was "one of the ablest documents ever submitted to a military council."

Asserting that the Allies were "face to face with terrible realities," the Premier begged the Commons to have done with controversy. He insisted that his government was entitled to an immediate declaration of support or non-support, and announced that he would quit office at once if the Supreme War Council decisions were repudiated.

Rawlinson Is Named

General Sir Henry Seymour Rawlinson had been appointed to the post of British military representative in the Supreme War Council, which was refused by General Sir William Robertson, the Premier announced.

The Premier's statement was made immediately upon the conclusion of the "questions" in the House, when the army estimates were introduced. This gave Mr. Lloyd George an opportunity to explain the changes in the chief of staff and the various important matters decided upon at the Versailles conference. He was loudly cheered when he said he hoped that whatever he said to-day would be treated as a question of policy and not of personality. If there had been any delay or apparent hesitation in the announcement of any decisions of the government it was not because there was any doubt in the mind of the administration with regard to their policy, but because they were extremely anxious that the decision when announced should be freed from any element of personality.

Vote Only Can Tell

The general result of this is that the crisis which a few days ago seemed the most serious, the Lloyd George government has encountered cannot be estimated in the absence of any test vote by the House of Commons. It was noticeable to those who witnessed the debate that the cheering which greeted his entrance was comparatively subdued and that the hearty applause which followed his speech was a cold demonstration of the kind which Mr. Asquith was heard impatiently at times by the members as he interjected remarks, and was interrupted with cries of "get on with the war."

The leader of the Opposition confronted the Premier across the table like a cross-examining lawyer, and when trying to make a point that the Premier had given the House to understand a week ago that the government and the generals were in harmony over the Versailles Conference, whereas General Robertson's opposition was then being considered, some members shouted to the Premier, "Tell the truth."

On the main point at issue the Premier submitted that the government had been obliged to grapple with the professional prejudices of the army against new arrangements, while Mr. Asquith was disposed to hold that divided responsibility between Versailles and the government would prove unworkable. There was a large attendance of peers, diplomats and generals, but as a Parliamentary field day between the old and new prime ministers, the session failed to meet expectations.

Versailles a Clearing House

It was felt, the Premier said, that the new executive body at Versailles must know, not only about their own armies and their own fronts, but also about all conditions on all fronts and in all armies and in all nations. Versailles had become the repository of information of all fronts, all armies, all nationalities, all staffs and all foreign offices, and that information was being coordinated by very able staffs. It constituted information which no single War Office possessed.

The Premier declared he was anxious that the Versailles arrangements should be worked on wholeheartedly by the military authorities here and in France. He had had a talk with Field Marshal Haig, who said he was prepared to work under them.

The arrangements were that the British permanent military adviser at the Versailles Council should become a member of the Army Council, that he should be in constant communication with the chief of the Imperial General Staff and that he should be absolutely free and unfettered in the advice he gives as a member of the Board of Military Representatives at Versailles. He was to have the powers necessary to enable him to fulfil the duties imposed upon him by recent Versailles decisions.

Chief Retains Powers

The chief of the general staff was to hold office under the same conditions and with the same powers as previous chiefs of staff, and was to remain the

Hutcheson Now Holds Out for Special Terms

Compers Joins in Effort to Adjust Shipping Dispute

Demands Closed Shop Or Federal Control

Discussions Set for To-day Thought Likely to End in Agreement

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Denied a conference with the President until he had adjusted his differences with the Shipping Board, William L. Hutcheson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, to-night resumed negotiations with Chairman Hurley and the Labor Adjustment Board.

At a conference attended by the head of the Shipping Board, members of the Labor Adjustment Board, Charles Piez, general manager of the Fleet Corporation; Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor; and officials of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, an effort was made to compose the differences which last week caused the strikes in New York and Baltimore shipyards.

While Hutcheson, the head of the carpenters' union, with the President's rebuke fresh in his mind, was disposed to be more conciliatory than was the case at his previous conferences with representatives of the Shipping Board, he was still far from an agreement with them on the matter of the closed shop and other details of the separate agreement he has sought to extract from the government in behalf of his organization.

Only the preliminaries were dealt with to-night, Chairman Hurley announced at the conclusion of the conference. The discussions will be resumed to-morrow afternoon, and, according to the head of the Shipping Board, it is probable that a satisfactory adjustment of the situation will be reached.

Hutcheson in Tight Place

Hutcheson finds himself now at odds both with his fellow labor chiefs and with the government of the United States.

Though he made efforts to-night to draw a line of distinction between "a strike against the shipyard employers" and "a strike against the government of the United States," when pinned down to the practicalities of the situation he admitted that shipyard strikes were at this time a blow delivered against the government.

Officials of the Shipping Board also emphasized that shipyard strikes now further threatened the welfare of the great mass of union workers in other branches of war industries.

"Ships must be built," Hutcheson was told, "even if it makes necessary shutting down other industries to accomplish it."

Closely in touch with the situation, Hutcheson, after the formality of a slow surrender, will finally agree to the decisions of the Labor Adjustment Board, as has been the case already with seventeen national departments of the American Federation of Labor.

Chairman Hurley, while not disposed to antagonize Hutcheson, made his position any more embarrassing than is necessary, at the same time will be insisted that the Brotherhood of Carpenters should obtain no special rulings at the hands of the Labor Adjustment Board. In this stand the head of the Shipping Board will have the support of the President and a majority of officials of the American Federation of Labor.

Would End Private Profits

Hutcheson, at the conference to-night, insisted that, before the government held the carpenters to the open shop principle, it should take over all shipyards and eliminate profit-taking by private interests. If this should be done, he said, the carpenters would be willing to work on any terms the government might prescribe.

On every hundred dollars paid the carpenters, the shipyards have taken seven dollars. This is what the carpenters object to. The strikes are over, but the question itself is not settled. The carpenters insist that they have the right to choose the men with whom they shall work. The employer is taking advantage of the situation to crush the labor unions.

The government is fighting the government shipbuilding programme. But we are fighting the shipbuilders. If the government would take over the yards the question would settle itself."

The fact that the two heads have agreed to leave the settlement of all differences to the Adjustment Board was pointed out, but Hutcheson declared he had no authority to sign any such agreement for the carpenters if it would take from them their "Constitutional rights."

Gregory's aid to investigate at Hog Island—States Island workers to return to plants—on Page 8.

Johnson Urges U. S. to Keep The Railroads

People Have Paid Price of Private Control, He Tells Senate

One Directing Head Best, Says Senator

Others Hold Rate Is Too High; Its Passage Expected Saturday

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Congress today bent itself almost exclusively toward expediting the Administration bill to govern Federal operation of railroads.

Debate on the measure was begun in the House and continued in the Senate, with leaders of both bodies planning its disposition before the end of the week. Late in the day the Senate agreed to begin voting on amendments Thursday afternoon, expecting passage of the bill late that night or Friday. In the House it is planned to close general debate Thursday and pass the measure at least before adjournment Saturday.

Considerable amendment of both the Senate and House Committee drafts before final action was forecast by today's discussion.

The principal addresses in the Senate to-day were by Senators Johnson, of California, and Townsend, of Michigan, Republicans, both of whom opposed the measure as now drawn. In the House Representative Sims, of Tennessee, and Representative Stephens, of Nebraska, Democrats, championed the draft of the House Committee. Government ownership of railroads was advocated by the California Senator and by Representative Stephens.

Senator Townsend pointed out many alleged defects in the bill, asserting that it was not understood by many committee members and that the railroads were supporting the measure in expectation of rate increases. He said he doubted whether the government could enforce the provision prohibiting the railroads from paying dividends higher than their regular rates.

Representative Sims urged particularly the adoption of provisions giving the President power to establish rates and to retain control of the carriers two years after peace shall have been declared. He asserted that government control should discontinue private management as little as possible.

Senator Norris criticized what he termed excessive compensation provided for the railroads and said the provision for rate making by the President was "unnecessary and unwarranted."

Under the Senate's agreement to begin work on amendments Thursday debate will be limited to ten minutes for each Senator from 2 to 6 P. M., and after that to five minutes for each man. Smith sought, but failed to obtain, an agreement for a final vote Thursday.

Underwood Urges Amendments

"It is my opinion that the bill needs amendments," Senator Underwood, of Alabama, declared. "There is no bill I know of that has been pending since the war began that so vitally affects the interests of the American people."

"I would now take the inevitable next step in government control of our railroads," Senator Johnson declared, "and do whatever might be essential to make that government ownership, or at least leave the way open so that immediately after the termination of the war, we might follow to its logical conclusion what already we have partly done."

Advices One Directing Head

In support of his declaration for government ownership, Senator Johnson said that the railroads had broken down under the stress of the last few months; that, if the country was to have efficient national transportation, operated by one big head, that the American people had the price of private ownership, and that, "despite barriers or obstacles, the nation is marching straight to the goal of public ownership, and the people at last will come into their own."

Senator Johnson stated he was in full accord with Senator Cummins, who, in a recent speech, said that the proposed compensation of 8 per cent per annum was unfair and unjust. He argued that the maximum compensation should not be paid the roads at a time when all the rest of the nation was being asked to make the greatest sacrifice.

"What this proposed rate means," added Senator Johnson, "is that the interest on the outstanding bonds of the railroads will be paid in accordance with the interest rates now fixed; in addition, that upon the stock of the railroads of the country will be paid by the government of the United States, something in excess of 8 per cent per annum is paid upon all the stock of all the railroads; it means that this percentage (and I am speaking only of the minimum) shall be paid by the people of the United States, not only upon the legitimate issues of the stock of railroad corporations, but upon every issue of stock that has been illegitimately issued—watered stock estimated at almost 50 per cent of the total stock of these corporations—stock representing nothing but the greed and the avarice of railroad magnates."

"I will write with a tender hand," replied Senator Johnson, "the obituary of private management in the United States. I will willingly concede that the railroads had many difficulties to surmount, and with all the difficulties the railroads have been unable to do the job. The government is doing the job and the government has been called on to do the job for all time."

Senator Norris characterized as "unnecessary and unwise" the conferring

Russians Accept Kaiser's Peace; Germans Advance on 400 Mile Line

"PEACE WITHOUT ANNEXATIONS OR INDEMNITIES"



Americans Rout Germans Trying To Trap Patrol

Ambush Fails, and Enemy Rushes to Cover, Carrying Back Wounded

[By The Associated Press]

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Feb. 19.—A German patrol ready to ambush an American patrol was discovered early this morning by a sentry, who gave the alarm by a rifle shot. Then the American machine guns riddled the enemy.

The Germans fled, carrying their casualties with them, but the ground where they had been was later found to be covered with tell-tale red stains.

The sentry saw two Germans near the parapet and moved to a listening post for a better view. He then challenged. A shot in his direction was the reply. The sentry fired at the chief of the patrol. Machine gun and rifles got in action from another section of the trench, sending a hail of bullets into the enemy, who retired on the run.

There were no casualties among the Americans. It is thought possible that this was the same patrol which set a successful ambush last week. Whether it was, the American forces feel that they have at least exacted partial reparation.

The enemy also has been punished for his killing of infantrymen in the American trenches with shrapnel. The American artillery broke many shells over the heads of a large German group in a trench, scattering the soldiers and undoubtedly hitting some of them.

Gas shells in considerable numbers were sent against the American batteries last night, but no damage was done. Neither were there any casualties.

There was great aerial activity today on the American sector, and the anti-aircraft guns were firing continuously. One enemy plane, which was disguised with Entente markings, flew low over one of the American trenches and fired a stream of machine gun bullets into it, but without any result. The enemy aviator made his escape.

Czernin to Discuss Peace With Rumania, Report From Vienna

Germany. It Is Reported, Will Insist Bulgaria Get Dobruja

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 19.—Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, is proceeding to Rumania at an early date, according to a Vienna dispatch, in response to Rumania's expressed wish to enter into preliminary discussions with the Central Powers regarding the eventual conclusion of peace.

Representatives of the other powers in the Quadruple Alliance are also going to Rumania.

Peace negotiations with Rumania, a telegram from Berlin says, it is understood will probably commence Friday, when Dr. von Kuehlmann, the Foreign Secretary, likely will arrive at Fokshani to take charge of the German negotiations.

Terms offered Rumania by Germany, the "Neueste Nachrichten," of Leipzig, says, must include the surrender of the Dobruja to Bulgaria. Germany also must demand an indemnity of an economic kind, especially as to raw material. The newspaper continues:

"If we allow Rumania to keep the mouth of the Danube she must pledge herself to support only a Central European economic policy. We could not allow her to have a wholly anti-German king, but Ferdinand's influence after the war will be gone altogether."

German Troops Are Unopposed in Russian Advance

Kaiser's Forces Advancing Eastward From Riga to Lutsk

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 19.—The official communication issued by the German War Office this evening says that from Riga to as far south as Lutsk German armies are advancing eastward into Russia.

German forces have entered Dvinsk, it was officially announced by the German War Office in the earlier statement to-day. This announcement said: "Yesterday evening German troops entered Dvinsk. They met with little resistance. The majority of the enemy troops fled. The Russians were not successful in blowing up the Dvinsk bridge, for which preparations had been made. On both sides of Lutsk (Volhynia) our divisions are on the march. Lutsk was occupied without any fighting."

VIENNA, Feb. 19.—The German army group under command of General Alexander von Linsingen, according to an official statement issued by the Austro-Hungarian War Office, has occupied the Russian town of Lutsk, in Volhynia, without fighting.

Lenroot Suggested For Seat in Senate

Cold Wave Predicted Here for To-morrow

German Troops Deaf To "Finish Fight" Plea

[By The Associated Press]

LONDON, Feb. 19.—According to German prisoners, General von Ludendorff recently addressed a body of infantry at Lun and asked how many men were willing to fight to the finish. Only five non-commissioned officers and privates stepped forward. The others declared their desire for an early peace by "arrangement."

German officers, on the other hand, appear to have the conviction that they will be able to break through by means of their "secret" attacks.

Hints at Mystery in Spring-Rice's Death

LONDON, Feb. 19.—In the House of Commons to-day Noel Pemberton Billing asked whether, in view of the fact that the late Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador at Washington, was instrumental in the Caillaux-Belo disclosures an inquest would be held to determine if his death was due to any cause other than that announced.

The speaker replied that Mr. Billing was required to put his question in writing and that it would be answered in regular order.

Germany Lifts Ban On Allied Papers

GENEVA, Feb. 19.—The ban which several weeks ago was placed upon British, French and Italian newspapers at the German frontier has now been removed and these publications are being allowed to enter Germany.

American newspapers are also being admitted, but are carefully censored, especially those articles concerning the activities of American troops in France.

Dvinsk and Lutsk Are Captured; Bolsheviki Offer No Resistance

Bolsheviki Agree to 4 Billion Indemnity

Willing Also to Cede Poland, Lithuania, Riga and Moon Island

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Russia is now forced to sign peace upon the conditions proposed by Germany, says an official Russian statement signed by Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky received here to-day.

Meanwhile, the German advance into Great Russia continues on a 400-mile front from Utsk to the sea. Dvinsk and Lutsk have been captured without resistance.

The statement from the Bolshevik heads protests against the German resumption of the war, and says the Council of People's Commissaries is now forced to declare its readiness to sign a peace as dictated by the delegations of the Quadruple Alliance at Brest-Litovsk. It promises to give a detailed reply without delay to the German peace conditions.

Bolshevik Statement

The statement was transmitted through the wireless telegraphy stations of the Russian government to the government of the German Empire at Berlin. It reads:

"The Council of People's Commissaries protests against the fact that the German government has directed its troops against the Russian council's republic, which has declared the war as at an end and which is demobilizing its army on all fronts.

"The Workers' and Peasants' government of Russia could not anticipate such a step, because neither directly nor indirectly has any one of the parties which concluded the armistice given the seven days' notice required in accordance with the treaty of December 15 for terminating it.

"The Council of People's Commissaries in the present circumstances regards itself as forced formally to declare its willingness to sign a peace upon the conditions which have been dictated by the delegations of the Quadruple Alliance at Brest-Litovsk.

"The Council of People's Commissaries further declares that a detailed reply will be given without delay to the conditions of peace as proposed by the German government.

"For the Council of People's Commissaries.

"TROTSKY."

Fraternization Urged

The Russian government, according to the official statement received here, has addressed the following message to headquarters and all the fronts:

"The Council of People's Commissaries has ordered the Germans to sign peace immediately. I order that in all cases where Germans are encountered the German soldiers should be organized and the proposal of fraternization made to them. If the Germans refuse, then you must offer to them every possible resistance."

Protests to Vienna

According to Vienna dispatches by way of Berne, Trotsky has forwarded wireless messages to Count Czernin, the Austrian Foreign Minister, reading: "The German government has reestablished a state of war with Russia without even giving the seven days' previous notice. I have the honor to ask you to inform me whether the Austro-Hungarian government also considers itself in a state of war with Russia, and if not, whether it believes it possible to reach a practical realization of the agreements worked out at Petrograd."

Rumors are current in Stockholm, according to a dispatch from Copenhagen to the Swedish capital, that the German government has directed against the unoccupied districts of especially the unoccupied districts of Finland and Estonia, in conjunction with a great naval attack in the Finnish Gulf. Guerrilla warfare is to be Russia's method of opposing Germany, especially that nation invades Russia further, according to intimations from Bolshevik sources, says a Petrograd dispatch dated Sunday. In an address to the Central Executive Committee of the Council of Soldiers' and Workers' Delegates, Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, said:

"We are not followers of Tolstoy. We do not say we will not resist the German invasion."

"Bushwhacking" Campaign

Trotsky proceeded to outline a plan, by which the Socialist army would conduct the bushwhacking campaign, hampering the efforts of the Germans should they endeavor to conduct commerce along the border, and should they try to secure grain from the Ukraine under what he alluded to as the screen of their so-called peace with the Central Executive Committee.

Renewal of the German attack on Great Russia fulfills the expectation widely held here since Germany consented to negotiate with the Bolsheviks.

Continued on Next Page

Continued on Last Page